



Recycle This! Newsletter

*Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management & Recycling Program * March 2003*



Legislative Update

By the time you receive this newsletter, several solid waste related bills have already been heard through Public Hearings at

the Natural Resources Committee. Following is a quick look at some of the bills -- for more complete information, you may visit the Legislature's bill site online at: www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/ and type in the number of the LD (Legislative Document).

Two bills, LD 188 and LD 670, address the issue of sludge, septage and composted sludge management and provide municipalities with additional oversight when permits for landspreading applications are received.

LD 590 and LD 743 address the end of life management of computers and related equipment. LD 590 bans the disposal of these items, whereas LD 743 provides for a much more comprehensive management plan and includes the concept of producer responsibility as part of the management options.

LD 803 proposes changes to host community agreements between a commercial solid waste disposal facility and the municipality. The bill also would change the criteria for when the State Planning Office (SPO) would develop its report for providing state-owned disposal capacity, and directs SPO to search for additional disposal capacity within the State and report back to the Legislature within 6 months.

Three bills, LD 829, LD 851 and LD 948, address concerns related to air quality standards and air emissions from incinerators that burn municipal solid waste and would set additional testing criteria and standards on the incinerators. Another bill, LD 845, addresses greenhouse gas sources and sets dates for reduction of these emissions.

LD 308 would establish a Task Force to *(cont'd on page 2)*

Grant Applications Now Available Online

As of March 3rd, the forms and information needed to apply for recycling or household hazardous waste grants can be found online at: www.recyclemaine.com/grants/. As a cost saving measure, hard copies will be mailed **only** upon request.

The \$600,000 for Recycling Capital Investment Grants and the \$900,000 for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Infrastructure Grants were part of the \$24 million environmental bond package passed by voters last November. State Planning Office (SPO) recently conducted a series of workshops at locations in Brewer, Augusta, Portland, and Presque Isle that introduced the new grants programs to representatives of over 100 Maine communities and regional programs. Brief descriptions of the grant opportunities appear below.

Recycling Capital Investment Grants

These are competitive grants and require a 50% match. Priority will be given to proposals that: aim to expand materials collected and/or increase volume recovery, provide for composting of food wastes, and/or include or focus on school and public building recycling programs. Proposals must be for recycling (not disposal) and must be for capital expenditures (buildings, equipment and their installation). Land purchase, major site development, salaries, administration, planning, engineering are not eligible.



Proposals will be reviewed by SPO staff for feasibility and cost effectiveness. Applications that propose municipal level compost projects will be reviewed with the assistance of DEP staff.

HHW Infrastructure Grants

Proposals for HHW Infrastructure Grants *(cont'd on page 3)*

Legislative Update (cont'd from page 1)

'make recommendations on the reallocation of State Planning Office functions to other appropriate state or local authorities for those functions not duplicated at the local level'. This proposed bill could result in changes of programs and services currently furnished by the state.

We expect several other bills to be printed, including a bill addressing the so-called 'evergreen contracts' used in solid waste collection and disposal contracts. Another expected bill would establish fees on architectural coatings and pesticides that would help support public household hazardous waste programs.

State Waste Management & Recycling Plan

Under MRSA Title 38, Chapter 24, Subchapter 2: § 2122., the State Planning Office is directed to:

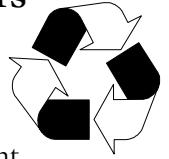


prepare an analysis of, and a plan for, the management, reduction and recycling of solid waste for the State. The plan must be based on the established priorities and recycling goals. The plan must provide guidance and direction to municipalities in planning and implementing waste management and recycling programs at the state, regional and local levels. The plan is to be updated every 5 years and cover four points:

- **Waste characterization.** The state plan must be based on a comprehensive analysis of solid waste generated, recycled and disposed of in the State.
- **Waste reduction and recycling assessment.** The state plan must include an assessment of the extent to which waste generation could be reduced at the source and the extent to which recycling can be increased.
- **Determination of existing and potential disposal capacity.** The state plan must identify existing solid waste disposal and management capacity within the State and the potential for expansion of that capacity.
- **Projected demand for capacity.** The state plan must identify the need in the State for current and future solid waste disposal capacity by type of solid waste, including identification of need over the next 5-year, 10-year and 20-year periods.

The plan is currently being updated by staff. Comments and suggestions offered during the recent workshops are included in this process. The intent is to have a draft of the plan ready by early summer.

Training Announcement: Transfer Station Operators Training Program



The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is pleased to present *Managing Recyclables*, the second elective training session in the Transfer Station Operators Training Program. This training workshop, to be conducted by SPO's Waste Management & Recycling Program staff, is designed for municipal transfer station operators, private operators, selectmen, town managers, and other interested parties. Attendees will be instructed on the basics relating to setting up and operating a recycling center, as well as some of the tracking and record keeping that goes along with recycling. Topics will include:

- Defining recyclables: paper, glass, metals, plastics and other materials;
- Importance of separating materials for processing and marketing;
- Overview of facility design, in terms of material flows;
- Review of equipment necessary in processing and moving recyclables;
- Role of storage and access to loading docks;
- Marketing recyclables;
- Record keeping and tracking of recycling efforts;
- Developing an on-going education campaign to support the recycling program;
- Managing difficult to handle wastes, including mercury containing products and Universal Wastes; and
- Primer on leaf and yard residual composting programs.

Training is scheduled be held: March 31 at the Augusta Civic Center; April 3 at the Ramada Inn, Lewiston; April 8 at the Spectacular Events Center, Bangor; April 10 at the Holiday Inn West, Portland; April 16 at the North Eastland Hotel, Presque Isle. **Registration begins at 8:15 am.** The program starts at 9am and ends at 4pm. The registration fee, which includes lunch, refreshments, and materials, is \$25 per person. Please contact Sandy Moody at 207-287-7751 to register.

Grant Applications (cont'd from page 1)

will be reviewed jointly by SPO and DEP staff. These grants are competitive and matching funds may be required, primarily on larger projects. This grants program is divided into two parts:

Part A focuses on 'hard to manage but recyclable waste items' and will encourage the recycling of CRTs, Mercury added products, waste oil and antifreeze, and waste paint. Applicants will be able to roll multiple Part A proposals into a single application.

Part B grants are for the management all types of HHW through permanent regional collection centers. *Only regional proposals will be considered.* These grants are for the installation or construction of facilities and equipment necessary for the safe regional collection and management of HHW. Options that may be funded include but are not limited to fixed permanent centers and mobile units.

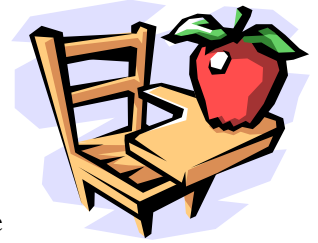
To request a hard copy of the grant applications or for additional information, please contact Sam Morris or Tom Miragliuolo at 1-800-662-4545. SPO staff is glad to speak with you prior to submittal.

Help Us Reduce Costs and Waste!

If you have Internet access, you can help SPO save money and paper by signing up to receive this newsletter electronically. SPO will add you to the electronic mailing list and notify you via email when the newsletter is available online. If you wish to remain on the hard copy mailing list, please keep us informed of address changes or of unwanted multiple copies.

Please contact Rhonda Cartlidge at rhonda.cartlidge@maine.gov or 1-800-662-4545 to request changes.

New Recycling & Waste Management Education Kits Available to Maine Educators



The Waste Management & Recycling Program has developed twelve educational kits containing materials that educators can use to conduct various units on recycling and waste management. Materials are appropriate for all grade levels, K-12. These kits will be distributed to Regional Planning Commissions and Councils of Government, who will then loan the kits to Maine educators. The following locations each have two kits available: Northern Maine Development Commission (Caribou), Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (Fairfield), Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (Auburn), and Hancock County Planning Commission (Ellsworth). A distribution location is also being finalized in southern Maine, and SPO has two kits to distribute from Augusta.

The following items are included in each kit:

- 1 binder containing:
 - Fact Sheet: Starting a School Recycling Program
 - Fun Facts About Recycling & Solid Waste
 - What Happens to Our Recyclables?
 - Waste Management & Recycling Resources for Maine Schools
 - Instructions for Making Recycled Paper
 - Recycled Content Product Samples - Tote Bag Inventory
- 2 copies of the Chewonki Foundation's *Pathways to a Sustainable Future: A Curriculum Guide for Schools Exploring Waste Management Issues* (K-12)
 - Props for "Are Ten Better Than One?" activity
 - Cards for "Paper, Plastic, or Cloth?" game
- 1 copy of Project Learning Tree's *Exploring Environmental Issues: Municipal Solid Waste* module (Secondary Grades) and *Green Works! Connecting Community Action and Service Learning*
- 1 copy of *Classroom Activities* (K-12)
- 3 Maine maps (Regional Recycling Programs – 2001, Municipal Solid Waste Disposal – 2001, and Recycling Rates – 2001)
- 1 copy of the *Recycle Maine! 2003 Calendar*
- 1 copy of the booklet, *Model Graphics for Developing RECYCLING Promotional Material*
- 10 Daily Recycler Wheels
- 4 Screens for use in making recycled paper
- Tote Bag containing Recycled Content Product Samples

SPO will track the use of these educational kits on a quarterly basis and obtain educator feedback in order to evaluate the usefulness of this new tool. For more information on the education kits, please contact Shannon Haines at 207-287-8053 or shannon.haines@maine.gov.

Maine State Planning Office
Waste Management & Recycling Program
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0038
1-800-662-4545 or 207-287-8050
www.recyclemaine.com



SPO Launches New Web Site

Visitors to the SPO web site will be greeted by a new, user friendly design created to provide a sense of unity with other State of Maine sites and comply with ADA requirements. While the Waste Management & Recycling Program portion of the web site still contains the same useful information at our same convenient address: www.recyclemaine.com, the layout has changed significantly, featuring easier navigation, a calendar of events, and more obvious links to other SPO programs. In addition, users of the new web site will soon be able to find the results of their communities' Municipal and Regional Solid Waste Annual reports online.

If you have any questions about navigating the new site, please feel free to give our office a call at 1-800-662-4545. As always, we welcome your suggestions or comments.

Coming Soon

A day long training session on *Managing Recyclables*, the second elective in DEP's **Transfer Station Operator Training Program**, is scheduled for the following dates: **March 31 (Augusta), April 3 (Lewiston), April 8 (Bangor), April 10 (Portland), and April 16 (Presque Isle)**. See page 2 for more details.



March 31 is the submission deadline for **2002 Municipal Solid Waste Annual Reports**. Contact Hank Tyler at 1-800-662-4545, or complete your report online at www.recyclemaine.com.

Earth Day is April 22! Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to promote recycling in your community.

The **Maine Resource Recovery Association** will hold its **Annual Solid Waste Conference & Recyclathon** on **April 28 & 29** at the **Sable Oaks** in **South Portland**. Call MRRA at 942-6772 for more information.